

ARTICLE 1
ON PAGE 1-A

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Poland's 'dirty tricks' described by defector

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"If Lech Walesa had not won the Nobel Prize, he would long since have been murdered," says Eligiusz Naszkowski, a Polish secret police official who defected to the West early this year.

In a recent interview with the editor of the West German newspaper

Die Welt, Mr. Naszkowski said that at one point, armed agents of the Polish Interior Ministry were recruited to masquerade as Solidarity sympathizers. The aim was to discredit the trade union movement by making it look as though Solidarity were filled with hotheads bent on staging an armed uprising against Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski's regime.

Eliminating Solidarity leader

Lech Walesa would have posed no problem, Mr. Naszkowski claimed. The 1983 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize is kept under constant watch by secret police agents who trail him night and day and record his every word and movement.

Mr. Naszkowski is the first insider to have revealed the full scope of the "dirty tricks" used by the communist government. But his flight to the West in January is not the only defection to shake the Jaruzelski regime recently.

Even more troublesome was the escape in February of Jozef Zim-

nicki, a member of the Central Committee of Poland's Communist Party.

Little is known about Mr. Zimnicki beyond the fact that he was a locksmith by trade and worked for a while in a Silesian steel mill. In July 1981, he was elected to the Central Committee at the 9th ("Reform") Congress of the Polish United Workers Party, five months before Gen. Jaruzelski staged his coup and imposed martial law.

This February, accompanied by his wife, their child and another member of the family, he boarded a ferry at the river port of Swinoujscie, south of Szczecin on the Oder, as though they were all going on a Baltic pleasure cruise. On reaching Copenhagen, the four disembarked and asked for asylum.

On May 11, it was suddenly announced in Warsaw that Jozef Zimnicki had been expelled from the Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party for "violating party principles."

Not until last weekend was it finally revealed that Mr. Zimnicki had decamped to Copenhagen, when a Danish newspaper broke the news. The Danish police had kept the matter quiet for close to three months.

Questioned on the subject, a senior member of Radio Free Europe's Polish service said Mr. Zimnicki's defection caused a backstage sensation in Warsaw. It was, he explained, the first time that a Central Committee member in active standing had defected to the West.

In the interview with Die Welt, earlier defector Eligiusz Naszkowski, 28, explained that in the late 1970s, as a political-science student at Poznan University, he established close ties with intellectuals of KOR (the Workers Self-defense Commit-

tee) before being recruited into one of the secret service branches of the Interior Ministry.

The leaders of the Polish Communist Party, Mr. Naszkowski claimed, were initially dumbfounded by the brushfire appeal of the Solidarity movement as it spread across the land during the early months of 1981. Finally, the minister of the interior, Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak decided that special steps had to be taken to cut Lech Walesa down to size.

A special task force, headed by 21 secret police colonels, was set up within the Interior Ministry to deal with Mr. Walesa, and in the seaport of Gdansk alone, more than 50 agents and electronic technicians were detailed to maintain a tight, round-the-clock surveillance.

Finding it increasingly difficult to penetrate the Solidarity movement — which grew so fast that it came to include army officers, soldiers and policemen as well as white-collar functionaries and factory workers — Gen. Kiszczak set up a special "study bureau" within the secret police to launch a massive "disinformation" drive against Mr. Walesa, according to Mr. Naszkowski.

Put under the direct control of the deputy interior minister, Gen. Wladyslaw Ciaston, this bureau proceeded to spread false reports on a massive scale in a systematic drive to destroy Mr. Walesa's soaring prestige, Mr. Naszkowski said. The tape-recording of a "bugged" conversation between Mr. Walesa and his brother was subtly spliced to make it sound as though Mr. Walesa, through foreign donations, had become a millionaire.

Jozef Pinior, leader of the Solidarity movement in Wroclaw, was likewise smeared through a campaign of lies aimed at proving that he had used 80 million zlotys in union membership dues to buy himself a country villa.